

POINTS FOR DEPUTIES LUNCH
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I. ISSUE

- o To what extent will the U.S. provide logistical support (airlift) for the French-led intervention in Rwanda?

II. BACKGROUND/STATUS OF ISSUE

- o The French are expected to make a formal request for airlift of French troops to Goma, Zaire. Senegal is contributing a contingent to the operation and also is expected to request airlift, as well as equipment.
- o Although the French-led operation has UN approval and the support of the U.S. and others, the RPF continues to oppose it publicly, and some potential UNAMIR troop contributors are now holding back to see how the French initiative turns out.

III. KEY POINTS TO MAKE

- o The Secretary told French FM Juppe that we would work through the interagency process to provide (or consider providing) logistical support for the French initiative.
- o The French operation is going forward. We cannot afford to let it fail.
- o We expect to receive formal requests to airlift the French, and probably the Senegalese, to Goma, Zaire. Additional requests may be forthcoming.
- o To fulfill the Secretary's commitment, we need to be ready to provide airlift support to the French and to answer other as yet unspecified support requirements.
- o We want the operation to have as broad a participation as possible, to make clear this is a multilateral humanitarian mission, not a unilateral French action.
- o To that end, AF, PM, and EUR believe we should be forthcoming on logistical support (airlift) to the Senegalese and other potential African contributors to the French-led operation. (IO believes we should provide airlift only for the French and should encourage the French to transport the Senegalese and other contributors, since we are already committed to provide logistical support to the Ghanaians for expanded UNAMIR.)
- o While we should provide necessary airlift, we believe that transport to Goma is inappropriate, both for political and security reasons. We should be willing instead to provide airlift to the Central African Republic, the initial staging area for the French deployment.

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